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Princess Cruise Lines rescues Aruba Beach Club fundraising campaign

For fifteen years, Aruba Beach Club Pool Towel Station Employee, Fabiana Maduro and her colleagues has been the center of pop-tab collection efforts, the proceeds of which are donated to the Ronald McDonald House Centers. These tabs have been transported over the years to the center in Philadelphia by Aruba Beach Club members, primarily Dr. Lorraine Gutowicz-Weinberger, when they return to the States.

The Ronald McDonald House program provides a "home-away-from-home" for families that have traveled far to obtain treatment



Princess Crew meets ABC tab collectors

for children with life-threatening diseases or conditions. The houses allow the families to stay close by their hospitalized child at little or no cost. Their houses are built on the simple idea that "nothing else should matter when a family is focused on healing their child – not where they can afford to stay, where they will get their next meal or where they will lay their head at night to rest. The Ronald McDonald House believes that when a child is hospitalized the love and support of family is as powerful as the strongest medicine prescribed."

This year, the dedication of ABC towel hut manager Fabiana Maduro and her associates to this program resulted in a record number of

tabs being collected, over 66 kilos. Many members bring their accumulated tabs to Aruba to add to the annual donation. Unfortunately, increased airline security and weight restrictions prevented this record breaking collection of tabs from being transported to the U.S. on a return flight, as was the usual practice. An inquiry of Princess Cruise Lines, which calls at Aruba regularly, however, was attended to diligently by Donna Silvera Barnett, Port Operations/Logistics Specialist. She connected with Giovanni Ragunath of Armada Port Agency Services on Aruba, and between them, they worked out a viable alternative.

Italy faces vote as Monti leaves, Berlusconi returns

ROME (AFP) - Italian officials on Sunday readied for early elections after Prime Minister Mario Monti said he would soon resign and his predecessor Silvio Berlusconi announced he would run for the top job for the sixth time in two decades.

Monti on Saturday said he would step down as soon as parliament approved next year's budget, which means elections could now be held as early as February -- well before the government's mandate runs out in late April.

"I have matured in my conviction that we could not continue like this any longer,"

Monti was quoted as saying in an interview with top-selling daily Corriere della Sera, a day after his dramatic move.

Monti said he made his decision after Berlusconi's People of Freedom (PDL) party withdrew its support for him last week.

Party chief Angelino Alfano told parliament on Friday that Italy's debt, unemployment and tax rates had risen, while the economy had plunged since Monti had taken over in November 2011. Monti leads a non-elected cabinet of technocrats.

Alfano went back on the offensive Sunday, saying

Monti's government had made "grave errors" and that the PDL was a "responsible force" for Italy.

Analysts said Monti's decision to speed up the election could also be a way for him to prepare his own entry into politics after three-time prime minister Berlusconi announced his dramatic return.

Berlusconi's decision comes despite a tax fraud conviction earlier this year and an ongoing trial for having sex with an underage 17-year-old prostitute and abusing his powers when premier.

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Indian Association of Aruba celebrates Diwali



Indian Association of Aruba organized a cultural evening at Aruba Marriott Resort to celebrate Diwali. Diwali is

like an identification for Indian Community living abroad anywhere. It is a major festival for Hindus

comparable to Christmas where they do lots of lighting, fireworks and exchange sweets. This year's theme of

the event was Bollywood Diwali Cruise with befitting decoration, food and Indian sweets.

The community dressed up in nice traditional dresses and children practiced hard to present a lovely cultural program with dances and drama show.

The attached pictures show children on the stage, with ladies who coached them and the organizers of the Indian Association.

The event was emceed by Aditya Gupta and Kunal Nathani. All performers and organizers were recognized by Prakash & Niti Gupta.

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Aruba Bank raises the roof on their new Hato Branch



Aruba's first financial institution, and presently the largest, Aruba Bank, was proud to welcome employees for a favorite island and Dutch ritual, "Spantenbier," on Friday, November 7. This celebrates the raising of the highest point of a building; in this case, what will be an

Aruba Bank branch offering extensive services in Hato. Marketing and P.R. Manager Shanouille Bikker welcomed all for the christening of the highest point of the building, the frame for the rooftop, or "Spanten" with authentic Dutch Heineken, thus the name "Spantenbier."

This new branch of Aruba Bank will be very large, hosting not only standard teller services, but offices, an auditorium and conference room and executive departments. It will provide many important banking services for the community. Following the current trend of sustainability and environmental awareness, the building has been designed to be energy use efficient. Water will be recycled, special air conditioning systems will be installed, and the windows and walls are double constructed with insulation, naturally cooling the building.

In keeping with this historic occasion, Aruba Bank Managing Director Marcellina Richardson was invited to deposit a sealed bottle containing the blueprints of the new building plus the Spantenbier address into a pit. "As nearby is the site of an important archeological dig," explained Ms. Bickers, "where island history has been revealed, we are leaving behind this artifact, perhaps to be found by historians in the far distant future."

Continue on pg 5

Remember to collect your new Passport or ID at Census Bureau



The Census Bureau is kindly reminding everyone who in the past three months requested a new Passport or ID to come by and pick up this document as soon as possible. Bear in mind the notice on the receipt, especially the payment date, because after three months the document will be destroyed if it has not been claimed.

In order for a person to receive a new ID or Passport, a new petition and corresponding payment will have to be made. Everyone is reminded that once an application for a Passport or ID has been made

the process takes two weeks. Which means that after two weeks the person can pick up the requested document at the Census Bureau and Civil Registry.

A Passport or ID is an important document of identification. The Passport is used for travel purposes or as a means for identification, likewise the 'cedula' ID, and you are required to have them in your possession at all times. Hence, if you requested one of these documents go and pick them up at the Census Bureau and Civil Registry.

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Princess Cruise Lines rescues Aruba Beach Club fundraising campaign

Continued from pg 1



On Friday, December 7, a delegation from the Aruba Beach Club comprised of Fabiana, Dr. Gutowicz-Weinberger, Joel Altuve, Oswald Rosaria and General Manager Farida Mansur were welcomed to the ship by Island Princess Hotel GM Claudio Mazzoni, Occupational Safety and Environmental Officer Tom Christensen and Staff Captain Michele Tuvo, who accepted the more than one million pop-tabs onboard. They will turn them over to the Ronald MacDonald House in Ft. Lauderdale, Florida.

"Princess Cruise Lines always welcomes opportunities to contribute to the communities of the many ports we visit," explained Officer Christensen. "We regularly donated canned goods to our ports in Alaska. Every time we stop in Eleuthera Island in the Bahamas we deliver to them all our used cooking oil, about 800 gallons weekly, which they recycle into biodiesel fuel."

The Ronald McDonald House will send the tabs to an aluminum recycling plant, which presents them with a check for the weight of the tabs. Most of the centers accommodate more than a thousand families annually who have traveled far from to be with their children during treatment at specialized hospitals, and in eight years, tab collection has resulted in nearly \$110,000 dollars for the Ronald McDonald House in Philadelphia.

The Aruba Beach Club management expressed heartfelt gratitude to Donna Silvera Barnett and Princess Cruises, Giovanni Ragunath, the Aruba Ports Authority and Dr. Lorraine Gutowicz-Weinberger and ABC Board Member Rick Titone for their part in continuing this recycling effort that has charitable results. They also have special thanks for all the Aruba Beach Club members who enthusiastically participate in this program.

By Rosalie Klein



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Registration and Group Participation for Carnival 2013

Stichting Arubaanse Carnaval (SAC) is the official institution for organizing and coordinating the Aruba Carnival. Carnival is the biggest cultural celebration celebrated on Aruba annually.

This gigantic celebration knows no distinction of race, religion, color, sex or age. To make every Carnival successful, SAC depends on a large group of highly motivated volunteers ready and willing to work together.

SAC wishes to inform the general public that, based on a formal request submitted by a group of leaders (Gruponan di Carnaval Uni), the following decision to not permit Carnival groups that have been organized to only participate in the "fakkel" or lighting parades to participate in the Grand Parade. This particular phenomena has been growing and it is hindering them in their fundraising as active groups who are con-



tributing significantly to our Dushi Carnival.

Aruba's main parade is the adult parade in Oranjestad, which also closes out this largest cultural celebration that Aruba celebrates annually. Hence, the petition from the groups has been deliberated in a meeting with the "Raad van Beheer" (Steering Committee) of SAC where

they unanimously accepted and approved the petition.

The final decision with respect to the petition entails that: "...All groups planning on participating in Aruba's 2013 Carnival celebration must fill out a registration form before December 28, 2012. All groups who participate at the "Fakkeloptocht" Parada di Flambeau, must also

participate in the Grand Parade on February 10, 2013.

This is to guarantee that the groups' intent on doing fundraising during the Parada di Flambeau can do this without interference from other groups whose intention might be to participate for commercial purposes.

This decision will also guarantee that the main pa-

rade of Aruba's Carnival can maintain and grow in the number of participants, luxury, fantasy, creativity and total festivity.

However, a group who wishes to participate in the Grand Parade on February 10, 2013 directly, the leader of that group must fill out the registration form. Thereafter that leader will be contacted to attend a meeting during which they will cast lots so they can participate in the parade.

Aruba is eagerly looking forward to enjoying this 2013 Carnival season and our 59th Carnival. SAC is appealing to all of Aruba for us to all cooperate to celebrate an incident free Carnival. A Carnival without the abuse of alcohol, without violence; instead, in an atmosphere of enjoyment and safety, demonstrating to the world that we can celebrate in safety and without danger to anyone.

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Aruba Bank raises the roof on their new Hato Branch

Continued from pg 3



Marcelina Richardson lowers the bottle into the pit



Dicky van Heusden and Bastiaan Guis christen the building

Chairman of the Aruba Bank Board, Bastiaan Guis was invited to join Dicky van Heusden, owner of eMax, the construction company building their Hato branch, to officially douse the span-ten before a cheering audience.

As is also a ritual of such an occasion, a large quantity of bier was also consumed by the celebrants, along with delicious snacks prepared by Papiamento restaurant.

Following the official baptism of the highest point, Aruba Bank employees gathered around the rotunda on the Sasaki highway where it intersects with the Hato road. Aruba Bank has also sponsored an elaborate holiday display on the thoroughfare, and the special day ended with an official lighting event.

By Rosalie Klein



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BETHLEHEM : Palestinian municipality employees adjust the position of a Christmas tree in Manger Square, outside the Church of the Nativity, in the West Bank biblical town of Bethlehem, the traditional birthplace of Jesus as preparations for Christmas celebrations get underway on December 9, 2012. (AFP PHOTO)

Romania's PM says ready to lead next government

BUCHAREST (AFP) - Romanian Prime Minister Victor Ponta on Sunday said he was ready to lead the next government after exit polls showed his centre-left coalition won a landslide victory in parliamentary elections.

"I confirm what I said during the campaign and I am ready to lead the next government", Ponta told supporters in his constituency of Targu Jiu, in southwestern Romania.

Ponta's Social-Liberal Union (USL), in power since May, took 57 percent of the votes, exit polls show.

The Right Romania Alliance (ARD), which comprises parties close to President Traian Basescu's camp, trailed far behind on 19 percent.

According to the Romanian Constitution, it is now up to Basescu, Ponta's arch rival, to designate a new prime minister.

He is expected to have talks with political parties in the coming days after he returns from Oslo where he will collect the Nobel peace prize together with other European leaders.

Arab League hopes US, Russia reconcile on Syria

DOHA (AFP) - Arab League chief Nabil al-Arabi said on Sunday he hoped that the United States and Russia could reconcile their views over Syria in order to facilitate a settlement of the crisis in the war-ravaged country.

"Talks between the United States and Russia along with the international envoy (Lakhdar Brahimi) continued in Geneva today," Arabi told a meeting of the Arab ministerial committee on Syria held in Doha.

US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton on Thursday met both her Russian counterpart Sergei Lavrov and Brahimi in Dublin.

Clinton said there had been no "great breakthrough" during those talks, but that there would be further meetings between officials.

Arabi said the aim of the US-Russian talks was to "prepare a resolution for the (UN) Security Council" on the Syria crisis.

"This resolution will send a clear message to the (Damascus) regime that it is no longer protected."

The United Nations said that Brahimi met Russia's deputy foreign minister Mikhail Bogdanov and US deputy secretary of state William Burns in Geneva on Sunday to discuss Syria.

"The meeting was constructive and held in a spirit

of cooperation," a UN statement said.

"It explored avenues to move forward a peaceful process and mobilise greater international action in favour of a political solution to the Syrian crisis."

Brahimi, Burns and Bogdanov "reaffirmed their common assessment that the situation in Syria was bad and getting worse."

"They stressed that a political process to end the crisis in Syria was necessary and still possible."

Russia, along with China, is one of the last supporters of Syrian President Bashar al-Assad and has routinely blocked draft Security Council resolutions condemning his rule.

In a statement after the Doha meeting, the Arab ministerial committee reiterated a call for Assad to "step down to facilitate the start of a transition of power and end the bloodshed and destruction."

The ministers also appealed for humanitarian aid for internally displaced Syrians and refugees, and asked the League secretary general to "prepare a conference on the reconstruction of Syria," post-Assad.

Qatari Prime Minister Sheikh Hamad bin Jassem al-Thani, who heads the committee, told a news conference the downfall of Assad's regime "is imminent."

Greek PM eyes debt buy-back success next week

MUNICH, Germany (AFP) - Greece's prime minister said Sunday he was convinced he would soon be able to declare success in his country's huge debt buy-back plan, as he visited the southern German state of Bavaria.

Greek authorities have set a 30-billion-euro (\$38.7-billion) target for a complex financial operation to buy back some of the country's huge debt pile at reduced prices that began on Monday.

And speaking after talks

with Bavaria's state premier Horst Seehofer, Antonis Samaras told reporters he was confident of a positive outcome.

"I believe or I am firmly convinced that on Monday or Tuesday, we will actually be able to say with certainty that things have gone well," he said, speaking through an interpreter.

The operation aims to cut the national debt by around 20 billion euros and is vital to qualify for more financial aid from the European Union and

International Monetary Fund.

Samaras also said the debt buy-back scheme would be crucial to get the debt-ravaged country back on track and said he wanted to put the past behind him.

"The only thing I want to look to is the future. My presence here brings hope to the Greek people," he said.

Members of Seehofer's Christian Social Union (CSU), up for re-election in nationwide polls in September, have been some of the harshest German critics of Greece.

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International News

Chavez admits cancer relapse, designates heir apparent

CARACAS (AFP) - Leftist Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez admitted a relapse of his cancer late Saturday and designated vice president Nicolas Maduro as his heir apparent in case "something happened" to him.

Speaking on national television, an emotional Chavez said a return of cancer cells was detected during his most recent visit to Cuba for medical examination, he returned to the communist-ruled island early Sunday for another round of surgery.

He did not offer details, but his cancer was first detected in the pelvic area. Neither the Venezuelan leader, nor his Cuban doctors have ever disclosed what kind of cancer that was.

He admitted he was suffering "somewhat strong" pain and was taking tranquilizers as part of preparation for his upcoming surgery.

The Venezuelan leader also said that in the event "something happened" and he were incapacitated, vice president Nicolas Maduro would step in and assume control of the government for the rest of the 2013-2019 term, as required by the constitution.

But in what appeared like a presentation of his final will, the president also indicated he would like Maduro to take over the reins of power in a

post-Chavez period, urging Venezuelans to vote for him in the next presidential election.

Maduro, who has been serving as Venezuela's foreign minister for the past six years, was appointed vice president in the wake of the October presidential elections. He has held both portfolios since.

Maduro, a former bus driver who began his political career in the labor movement, belongs to the moderated wing of the Chavez entourage. The more radical wing is led by Diosdado Cabello, who, along with Chavez, took part in a failed 1992 military coup, and now presides over the National Assembly.

Chavez, who has been in power since 1999 and gained global prominence as an anti-American firebrand, appeared weak and subdued during the presidential campaign, but still managed to win another term that extends to 2019.

Prior to Saturday's surprise announcement, he had last been seen in public on November 15, and two weeks later he went to Cuba for treatment.

Over the past year and a half, Chavez has missed practically every regional meeting he was to have attended, such as the Summit of the Americas in Colombia, the Mercosur summit in Brazil and last month's Ibero-American summit in Cadiz, Spain.

Desperate Philippine typhoon victims await aid



NABUNTURAN: An elderly woman, a victim of devastating Typhoon Bopha, begs for alms next to a sign displayed along the roadside in the town of Nabunturan town in Compostela Valley province on December 9, 2012. Desperate families begged for food on December 9 days after the typhoon brought death and destruction to parts of a southern Philippine island, as the storm returned to the north of the country.



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OPEC meets to decide oil output targets, discuss new head

LONDON (AFP) - OPEC gathers in Vienna this week for a ministerial meeting to decide on the cartel's oil production ceiling, as a predicted drop in demand risks weighing on high crude prices despite Middle East unrest.

The Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries, which pumps out 35 percent of the world's oil, may also finally decide on a new head after a vote to appoint a successor to OPEC Secretary-

General Abdullah El-Badri was postponed in June.

The 12-nation cartel, which includes the world's biggest oil exporter Saudi Arabia and Iran -- currently under an oil embargo -- was to hold a regular output meeting at OPEC's headquarters in the Austrian capital on Wednesday.

At its last meeting in June, OPEC opted to keep its oil output ceiling at 30 million barrels per day (mbpd) -- after agreeing on the level a year ago -- and vowed to eliminate

over-production.

Occupying its dozen members' minds this week would also be who should replace El-Badri, who is due to retire at the end of this year after six years as secretary-general, or administrative head of the cartel.

That left three candidates in the running, with many analysts viewing Iraq's Thamer Ghadhban as the best placed, ahead of people put forward by Saudi Arabia and Iran -- OPEC's biggest two oil producers.

Health & Living

Child poverty worsening in Canada: UN



MONTREAL (AFP) - Child poverty has worsened in Canada over the last decade, a UN official said week-end as she completed a tour of the country.

"Canada can afford to do better," said Marta Murras, vice president of the United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child, citing figures from UNICEF that rank the North American country 24th out of 35 industrialized countries.

One in seven Canadian children lives in poverty, according to UNICEF statistics, and the situation is even worse among indigenous children, one in four of whom lives in poverty.

"This is a clear deterioration from 10 years ago," Murras said in a statement.

She was invited to Canada

by children's rights groups to observe the implementation of the UN convention on children's rights there.

In September, according to the statement, her committee wrote a review of the situation in Canada, expressing "concern over the lack of improvement to Canada's child poverty rate."

The review also highlighted "continuing Canadian health issues such as unhealthy weights and child mental illness, and inadequate monitoring mechanisms for tracking the well-being of children."

"The review also found insufficient co-ordination between various levels of government when it comes to serving Canadian children, and unclear accounting of government spending on children," the statement said.

Spanish 'stolen baby' finds parents 47 years on

MADRID (AFP) - A man who discovered he was one of a generation of "stolen babies" in Spain taken from their mothers under the Franco regime said he had tracked down his birth parents 47 years later.

Quique Olivert, 47, who runs a bar in Huelva on the southern coast of Spain, said that after his adoptive parents died he consulted his birth records and ended up identifying his biological mother plus a sister he never knew he had.

"My mother broke down when she saw me. She told me that she had never abandoned me, that they stole me from her arms and she never knew whether I was alive or dead," he told AFP.

"It was very emotional. She had not seen her son for 47 years."

Suspicious at finding irregularities in the records, Olivert had contacted SOS Bebes Robados, an organisation that campaigns for what it says are hundreds of thousands of people stolen as newborns under the dictator's reign.

The group helped him locate his sister and parents, living

hundreds of miles away from him in Bilbao in the far north of Spain, where he was born, and DNA tests proved that he was their son.

Francisco Franco's regime allowed children to be taken from their parents on moral or ideological grounds -- for example if the parents were jailed left-wing opponents or were not married.

Olivert said that in his case the Catholic nuns in the centre where his mother gave birth in 1965 took him from her because she was not married to his father.

His parents are still together, his mother aged 70 and his father 75, and his sister is 42.

"I was a very happy child and well loved by my adoptive parents," said Olivert, who also sings in a pop band. "They always told me I was adopted, but I always thought it had been legal."

The campaign group complains that the courts have shelved hundreds of cases of alleged stolen babies. A court in Huelva ruled recently that the alleged acts took place too long ago to be prosecuted.

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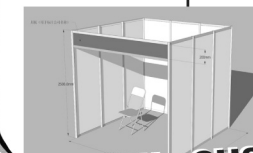
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Dutch granny prostitutes celebrate red light life



AMSTERDAM (AFP) - In a busy passage in Amsterdam's red light district a crowd is gathering as fans jostle to have their picture taken with the city's most famous great-grannies: Louise and Martine Fokkens, the Dutch capital's oldest twin prostitutes.

Decked out in matching red leather jackets and boots, red jeans and crocheted red berets, with Stars and Stripes scarves draped around their necks, the Fokkens cut a jaunty pair as they saunter down alleys with red-framed windows where semi-nude 'working women' put their bodies on display to lure customers.

Locals young and old line up for a chat, while gawking tourists look on in bemused confusion.

"Look it's the 'ouwe hoeren' (Dutch for old whores)," Koen Booij, 19, shouts affectionately before running up to Martine who hands him an autographed postcard advertising the sisters' latest tell-all book about Amsterdam's seedy-side, where the Fokkens have been working as prostitutes for the last half-a-century.

Since the early 1960s, first Louise and later Martine have been plying their trade around the infamous "Wallen" (Dutch

for 'canal banks'), the world's best-known red light area.

Today there are an estimated 5,000 to 8,000 active sex-workers in Amsterdam -- but only a fraction do business from behind the around 370 "frames" in the area, according to the city.

Now 70, the sisters shot to fame last year when a documentary -- aptly titled "Ouwe hoeren" and translated as "Meet the Fokkens" about their lives, played to critical acclaim at Amsterdam's International Documentary Film Festival.

The film was such a success that it was screened again at this year's festival last week.

Two tell-all books -- one has already been translated into English, French and other languages -- about the sisters' lives behind the red curtain fol-

lowed.

A regular slot on a late-night sex-and-drugs talk show on Dutch television since October has cemented the twins' celebrity sex-worker status.

Their second book, "Ouwe hoeren op reis" (Old Whores on a Journey) has just been released. Publisher Bertram en De Leeuw told AFP that 70,000 copies of the two books have already been sold in the Netherlands, propelling them into the Dutch best-seller list.

The Fokkens sisters -- both great-grandmothers several times over -- say they have seen it all: in the city where prostitutes have been selling their bodies to visiting sailors and other thrill-seekers since the 15th century, very little can still shock them.

They ran their own brothel for a number of years and were responsible for starting their own trade union for sex workers long before the Dutch government legalised prostitution in 2000.

Two years ago, Louise finally hung up her stiletto boots because of arthritis -- "You can't get into those sex positions", she says, while Martine still works once or twice a week, including Sundays, specialising in soft-core bondage for the older gentleman.

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Sci-Tech

Growth in Internet complicated privacy: Leveso

SYDNEY (AFP) - Justice Brian Leveson, who led the inquiry into Britain's phone-hacking scandal, said the Internet's growth had complicated debate about mass media privacy, with no easy solution.

Leveson, who last month called for an independent media regulator in Britain, told a privacy symposium in Sydney that there was "an element of mob rule" in identifying people online, and said it was a difficult area to police.

"To name and shame people by broadcasting their behaviour (online), there is a danger of real harm being done, and in some cases harm which is both permanent and disproportionate," he said.

"There is not only danger of trial by Twitter, but also of an unending punishment, and no prospect of rehabilitation, via Google."

He said too many people were unaware that images and data uploaded online could be stored forever.

"Children and the young do not appreciate that uploading a compromising photograph for a laugh can have consequences for the long-term future," he said.

"Because once the photograph is in the public domain, it can be found, copied and reproduced, all, again, at the click of the mouse."

The role of the Internet and social media in Australia has come under the microscope of the government, but Communications Minister Stephen Conroy has admitted it is difficult to do much about US companies operating under US law.

"In the past there's been a whole range of pages, not just on Facebook but on other sites where people have made complaints," he said earlier this year.

Leveson said he had no easy solutions, admitting it would be difficult to restrict the Internet's power given there had been a "historical failure to develop limitations on incursions into privacy by the media".

Leveson led an eight-month inquiry into the media sparked by the phone-hacking scandal at Rupert Murdoch's News of the World tabloid.

In his report, he said the British newspaper industry had for decades "wreaked havoc with the lives of innocent people" and ignored the codes that it had itself set up.

Sham II: New fighting machine of Syria rebels

BISHQATIN (AFP) - From a distance it looks rather like a big rusty metal box but closer inspection reveals the latest achievement of Syrian rebels: a home-made armoured vehicle waiting to be deployed.

Sham II, named after ancient Syria, is built from the chassis of a car and touted by rebels as "100 percent made in Syria."

It required a "month of work" for the design, assembly and development of the vehicle, says its designer Mahmud Abud from the Al-Ansar rebel brigade in the Aleppo region of northwest Syria.

The fully-enclosed vehicle made from light steel is about four metres (yards) in length and two metres across, mounted with a 7.62 mm machinegun controlled from inside the cabin.

The vehicle has five cameras: three at the front, one in the back and another attached to the gun.

The crew inside the cabin are fully protected, with the driver manoeuvring the vehicle by watching a screen which displays video from the cameras.

The gunner, seated next to the driver, can activate the machinegun by watching another screen and using a control stick equipped with push buttons.

The metal walls are 2.5 centimetres thick and said to be able to resist up to 23 mm cannon fire. The vehicle, however, can not withstand a rocket-propelled grenade or tank fire.

Sham II, as the name suggests, is an enhanced version of its predecessor. The earlier model shielded the driver but the rest of the crew were exposed to enemy fire.

Sham I has already been deployed in combat while Sham II is soon to join the fray in Aleppo as part of the Saad Ben-moaz battalion of the Al-Ansar brigade, says Abud.



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ACROSS

1. Does a supermarket job
5. Walk heavily
10. Smelter's debris
14. Dismounted from a horse
15. Less loony
16. How, José?
17. Albacore, e.g.
18. Banks or Pyle
19. Yemen port
20. Chic
22. Mindy, to Mork
24. Foretells
26. Ray gun's sound
27. "How the Grinch _____ Christmas"
29. The First St.
30. Telepathy: abbr.

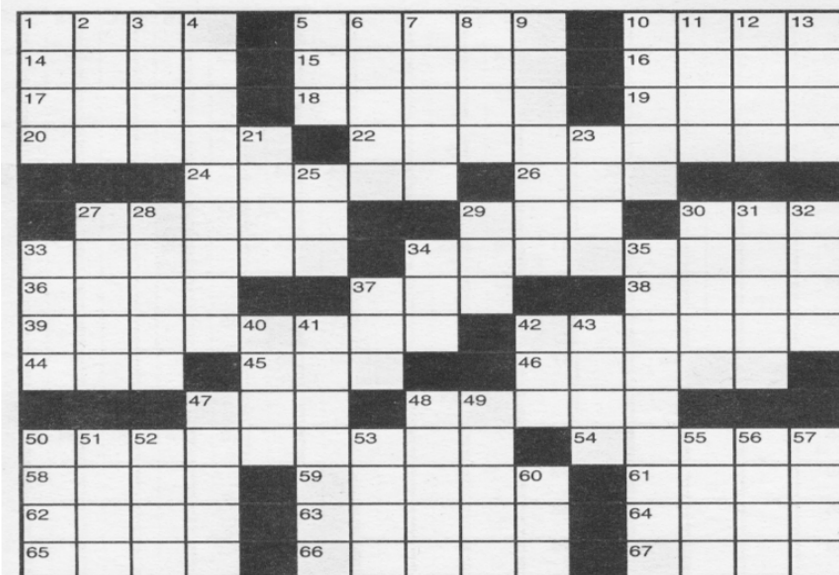
33. Holy wars
34. Pokey pal
36. Apple preservative
37. Ruckus
38. Voiced
39. Speculated
42. Dishwasher's gear
44. Wind dir.
45. Boon
46. Part of a baby-talker's diminutive
47. McHale's org.
48. Goof
50. _____ up (egg request)
54. Blue and White rivers
58. Smell _____ (be leery)
59. Homeric epic
61. Farewell: Lat.
62. 1958 Leslie Caron film

63. Explosive substance, for short
64. Satan's arena
65. To be, to Caesar
66. Plaster
67. Sand bar

DOWN

1. Cave dwellers
2. Returning grad
3. "Dennis the Menace" girl
4. Ship's right side
5. Mao or Lao follower
6. Street show
7. Held and Case
8. Golda of Israel
9. Twisted snack
10. Resell concert tickets
11. City near

12. Hymn closing
13. Diner-summoning instrument
21. Blabbed
23. Lyceum
25. _____ Moines
27. Barn adjuncts
28. Clan chief
29. Lawn moisture
30. Brings home a check
31. Theatrical
32. Soccer great
33. Gabs
34. Cape _____
35. 1961 Oscar song
37. Thomas Jefferson's hair color
40. Not too challenging
41. Getting suds out
42. Sunday delivery: abbr.
43. Menial worker
47. Detach
48. Emulates Mencken
49. Acts like a nervous horse
50. Wise
51. "Mila 18" author Leon
52. Carps
53. "Would _____ to You?" (The Eurythmics)
55. Wash
56. "Night" author Wiesel
57. Egoist's concern
60. "Yabba dabba _____!" (Fred Flintstone)



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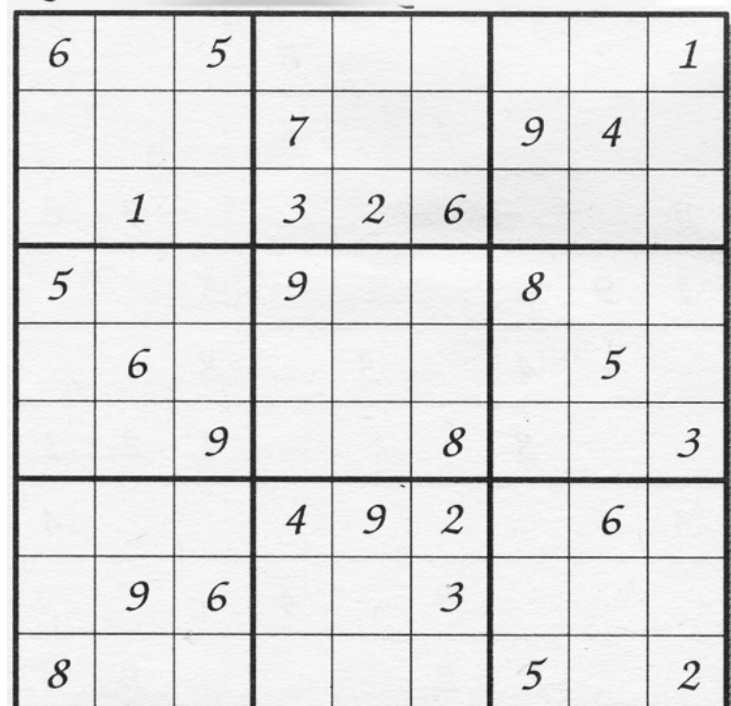
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Sudoku



SOLUTION

7	6	5	1	9	8	4	3	2
4	1	8	7	5	9	6	2	3
8	9	2	6	7	1	5	3	4
6	5	1	8	7	9	4	2	3
3	7	8	4	9	6	1	5	2
5	8	7	9	2	4	1	6	3
9	4	6	5	1	8	7	3	2
1	3	7	2	6	4	9	8	5

Complete the grid so that every row and every column contains the numbers 1 through 9
A number is Never repeated in a row or column.
In addition every rectangle must contain the numbers 1 through 9

Finance

IMF's Lagarde warns against US fudge on fiscal cliff

WASHINGTON (AFP) - The United States needs to raise taxes and cut spending to address the looming fiscal cliff, IMF chief Christine Lagarde said Sunday, warning that anything less would undermine economic confidence.

With President Barack Obama and Republican lawmakers stuck in an apparently ideological battle on how to address the nation's ballooning deficit by the end of 2012, Lagarde said the cliff remained the biggest threat to the economy.

Speaking on CNN's "State of the Union" talk show, she said that although the US economy was creating jobs, American debt was still higher than in much of the eurozone and cautioned against more half-baked, short-term measures.

The so-called fiscal cliff refers to a combination of severe tax increases and spending cuts due in January.

Obama won November's presidential election on a platform of tackling the nation's deficit and debt by raising taxes for the wealthiest Americans, but Republicans are opposed to higher rates being placed on anyone.

Lagarde, France's former finance minister, warned both sides against making a false compromise that would kick the fiscal cliff problem down the road temporarily, as was done 12 months ago.

The International Monetary Fund has already lowered its growth estimate for next year for the United States to 2.1 percent, and Lagarde reiterated that the implications of going over the cliff would be precipitous.

"If the US economy was to suffer the downside risk of not reaching a comprehensive deal, then growth would be zero," she said.

AHATA asks Government to implement three point strategy to address crime wave

The President of the Aruba Hotel and Tourism Association, James Hepple, today expressed horror at the report of the armed robbery of Kay's Jewellery store, Paseo Herencia, which took place on Thursday December 6 in front of a number of visitors as well as a spate of other crimes committed in the past few days.

"This is the third major incident in the recent past in the Palm Beach area" he said "and the situation just seems to be getting worse"

Mr. Hepple explained that AHATA, ATSA and ATIA have been holding an ever increasing number of meetings in the recent past with the

Government to express their concern with the escalation in crime. "We have met with the Prime Minister, The Minister of Justice, The Minister of Tourism and, on a regular basis, with the Commissioner of Police to discuss these matters. Whilst we acknowledge the situation is complex we believe there are three key strategies which should be pursued" he said.

First, the Government needs to devote more resources to its police force, especially to its detectives, to help them further increase the number of arrests.

Second, the Government needs to strengthen the control of our borders as it is thought that a significant number of recent crimes have been committed by nonresidents from neighboring countries.

And third, and perhaps most importantly, the judiciary needs to institute much heavier penalties for those habitual criminals who are threatening our nation way of life.

Mr. Hepple, who is also Chairman of the Aruba Hospitality and Security Foundation, said that the Foundation's strategy was to use the AFL

720,000 a year it receives from the Aruba Tourism Authority (these funds being derived from the hotel room tax) to assist in providing the police with the resources they need. He said the Tourism Product Enhancement Fund, chaired by Mr. Van Nes of the Aruba Timeshare Association, was pursuing a similar strategy and using TPEF funds (derived from the room tax paid by the timeshare resorts) to also assist in providing the police with the resources they need.

He said that the Commissioner of Police had recently expanded the police force by 14 officers and that a further 20 officers were being trained to supplement these new officers. The AH&SF and TPEF funds would go to assist in supplying these new officers with the equipment they needed and by so doing increase police presence in vulnerable areas.

Mr. Hepple said that he thought the police were doing what they could with what they had and expressed full support for their efforts but said the problem was that the police would catch the criminals

and within days the criminals were back out on the street.

"This increase in crime clearly affects every Aruban. Every Aruban should feel safe in their homes and on our streets. It is a national crisis and has to be solved as quickly as possible. It is not just about tourism" said the AHATA President.

"But at the same time" he continued "it is important to remember that tourism is virtually all Aruba has to support the jobs of our people and to generate the income we need. More than three out of every four jobs depends upon the spending of our visitors. With the closure of the refinery no other country in the world is as dependent upon tourism as is Aruba. We are under attack by these criminal elements and the Government has to understand this is an attack on our national security. Without tourism Aruba cannot survive. We need to get these criminals off the street before we lose our way of life."

Mr. Hepple concluded "Whilst we accept that the judiciary is independent of Government we are calling upon

the Government to seriously rethink its approach to this problem. Increase the resources devoted to the police force. Strengthen our borders. And implement heavier sentences which will not only punish those who commit these crimes but will also act as a much stronger deterrent to those who are thinking about committing such crimes".

SATURDAY'S Crossword Answer

A	L	E	R	T	C	R	A	G	E	A	R
T	I	G	E	R	H	A	L	E	E	L	L
E	M	I	L	Y	O	V	E	N	A	I	D
E	A	S	Y	S	T	R	E	E	T	S	T
T	E	E	N		L	A	Y	E	R	S	
D	U	R	E	S	S	B	E	R	G		
A	R	E	A		S	E	M	I		N	O
M	A	N	S	E		R	E	D		O	I
P	L	O	Y	S		I	T	E	M		N
	A	S	I	N		A	E	G	E	A	N
C	E	A	S	E	D		P	A	R	T	
H	E	M	P		E	A	S	Y	C	H	A
A	L	A	I		A	G	A	R		I	N
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Pointers to Ponder?

Tony A.D. Green www.people-self-development.com

Four Sure Ways to be Happy at Christmas time!

Yes, it is the time to be jolly... it is Christmas time when everyone is bouncing around, shopping and decorating and singing. The thought of eating ham, turkey, delicious cakes and drinking exotic drinks - and of meeting with family and friends excite most of us.

crease in clients suffering from depression and/or suicidal thoughts at this time of the year. Many, many people who have lost someone have real difficulty dealing with their emotions at Christmas time. The memory of the missing person brings gloom rather

of tears. This is particularly helpful and therapeutic if you have not really cried over your loss. Get alone somewhere or with one person you trust and feel really comfortable with and let your feelings just hang out...cry, cry, and cry, and empty your bucket.

Then, wipe off those tears and move on to a new you without the burden of grief you've been carrying.

Thirdly, reach out to someone in need. Stop looking in and look around you for someone who has a need that you can meet. Maybe it is someone who needs some food, or who needs a hand with a difficult chore around the house, or who needs someone to listen to his/her sad experience so they can empty their bucket of tears. When you reach out to others something magical and

mysterious happens to you. You gain a brand new perspective on your life and you discover that your worth is far more than you estimated!

Your loneliness and feelings of depression disappear and you find new strength to go on.

And, there is one final thing that you must do, and that is; receive Jesus: put your faith and trust in the 'reason for the season'...Jesus Christ, for whom we celebrate this wonderful season of the year. It is Jesus who came to mankind on Christmas day to bring us salvation and peace and joy. Lean on Him and you will be granted His peace and joy! After all, Christmas is about Jesus!

Here again are the four steps to take to enjoy your Christmas: rebuke all guilt, release sad emotions, reach out to someone, and receive Jesus!

Determine today that you will get up and begin again... with Jesus, the greatest Christmas Gift ever given! Merry Christmas!

If this article was helpful, do let me know: tony-green.morningnews@hotmail.com, Thanks.



Even children are ecstatic about Christmas because for them it means getting new things and lovely toys and other gifts.

But, you'll be amazed to discover that a great number of people simply abhor the yuletide season! They wish that Christmas would never come or that it would blow away with the wind. They can't stand the singing of the "Aguinaldos"/"Gaitas" (traditional Aruban Christmas music), nor can they stand the hustle and bustle of people shopping for gifts and making merry.

Why is this you ask? Well, these people have great difficulty coping with the loss of some loved one who will not be with them for Christmas! Someone who always shared their Christmases in the past, the person with whom they exchanged gifts and laughter at Christmas is no longer with them. It may be that the person died, or that the person walked out of their life through a divorce or separation.

So, Christmas time is an extremely sad time for them, and they succumb to depression.

Psychologists report an in-

crease in clients suffering from depression and/or suicidal thoughts at this time of the year. Many, many people who have lost someone have real difficulty dealing with their emotions at Christmas time. The memory of the missing person brings gloom rather

than gladness...and they don't know how to cope with the loss at Christmas time!

Firstly, you must rebuke any and all feelings of guilt. Feeling guilty for something over which you had no control will cripple your ability to see things clearly and ruin your emotions. Alright, that person you loved and cared for walked out of your life; and perhaps you had some fault in the process, but it is now time to get on with your life. Stop blaming yourself, stop musing over the mistakes made, stop feeling guilty and get up and go to the next level! Remember, no matter how bad the situation was, or how ugly you feel about it all, you can always begin again! Make this Christmas your new beginning, rather than bemoaning the past!

Or, maybe there is that person you loved that passed. There is nothing you can do to change that. Death is final. Instead of sobbing, and sadness, try singing. You can be sure that that person would want you to be happy.

Secondly, release all sad emotions. Empty your bucket

of tears. This is particularly helpful and therapeutic if you have not really cried over your loss. Get alone somewhere or with one person you trust and feel really comfortable with and let your feelings just hang out...cry, cry, and cry, and empty your bucket.



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Mandela "comfortable" after night in hospital

JOHANNESBURG (AFP) - Nelson Mandela is "comfortable", the South African government said Sunday after the former president spent the night in hospital, for medical tests described as "consistent with his age".

President Jacob Zuma on Sunday visited the country's 94-year-old first black president who was hospitalised a day earlier and said he "found him comfortable, and in good care."

The iconic leader was admitted on Saturday for what Zuma's spokesman and former Mandela prison inmate Mac Maharaj said was for tests and medical attention consistent with the nanogenarian's age.

It was the second time the 94-year-old and increasingly frail Mandela was hospitalised this year and officials have moved to allay fears around his health.

The anti-apartheid hero and Nobel Peace Prize laureate was flown from his home village of Qunu in the southeast of the country to a hospital in the capital Pretoria on Saturday.

Keith Khoza spokesman of the ruling ANC party, which Mandela once led, said "he is in perfect health, everything is well, it's just that he has to undergo these regular check ups."

Officials have refused to give more details about his condition and the tests he is taking or say which hospital he was at.

The revered statesman has not appeared in public since South Africa hosted the FIFA Football World Cup final in 2010.

Madiba, as he is affectionately known by South Africans, has all-but retired from public life, choosing to live in his childhood hometown of Qunu in the rural Eastern Cape.



The once spry boxer, who stayed fit during his 27 years in prison by doing calisthenics in his cell, has grown increasingly frail, but his stature as one of the world's most famous and loved public figures remains undimmed.

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Excellent dining, charming ambiance and a breathtaking view found only at La Trattoria El Faro Blanco



Stunning sunset

Over twenty years ago, a very clever person had the idea of placing a cozy little restaurant on the top of the cliff adjacent to the California Lighthouse, offering the most stunning view of Aruba imaginable. La Trattoria el Faro Blanco took over the location some years ago, and the restaurant's quaint trappings, superb selection and amenable staff has made it a

one of the island's most popular dining spots ever since.

Savoring the sight of a spectacular Aruban sunset and the tiered layout of the eatery also makes it the ideal spot for marking a special occasion, such as an anniversary or a marriage proposal, as well as a perfect venue for weddings or a celebratory party. An extensive and diverse menu and wine list al-

lows those planning a special festivity will be able to devise a memorable event and management is ready and willing to help you stay within your budget.

Many have taken note of this singular location as the place to go for that memorable romantic meal, and their reservation staff reports a waiting list for the rail tables that offer the best unobstructed view, recommending reservations well in advance if this is important to you.

The restaurant is now open from early in the day for refreshments, and is the perfect lunch stop while touring, serving from 11:00 AM to 3:00 PM, after which visitors can enjoy a light snack from their Pizza Mini Menu until 6:00



Osso Buco with Risotto

PM when they officially open for dinner, until 11:00 PM.

All these aspects of

charming surroundings, dining al fresco with a breathtaking view (or in their enclosed air-conditioned dining room, if you prefer) and fine food makes La Trattoria El Faro the single dining experience that must not be missed before departing Aruba.

Reservations can be made by calling 586-0786 or 586-0787, or via e-mail link at their website, www.aruba-latrattoria.com, where you can peruse their latest menu, as Chef Alberto is always devising some tasty new specialty to take advantage of what is fresh for the season.

Gold Coast Aruba: This is the time to invest



Management of Gold Coast Aruba, the island's newest and most innovative gated community, reports that sales have been very good and encouraging as the global economy recovers and people looking to purchase vacation homes have found that Gold Coast is an outstanding investment value. Director of Sales, Fito Croes has noticed a surprising percentage of owners in reality do not spend a great amount of time personally to use the villas or town homes they purchase, but are taking advantage of Gold Coast's rental services to turn their investment into ready income.

"The greater portion of home owners are using their 'home away from home' in Aruba to escape the winter months, or spend holidays with the family on the island," he remarked, "but I am gratified by how many are buying because they felt secure with

real estate investment on Aruba. They really study the history and economy of the island and are impressed with the political stability and continually increasing value of prime locations. Gold Coast is in the heart of Malmok, considered Aruba's most exclusive community where the value of properties has only increased over time. It is only minutes to the best beaches and all the action, and yet offers a quiet and secluded getaway; we are very pleased by the response to our concept."

Fito, with his sister Mayrin and brother Rudy operate Cas Bon, which has been constructing homes and building developments for all budgets for nearly twenty years. "Gold Coast Aruba is the jewel in our crown," observes Fito. "We were very excited about this project and the scope of actual and planned facilities and amenities. We have spoken to

countless island visitors to find out what they would really want in a permanent residence on Aruba, and took from there."

Input from frequent vacationers who have dreamed of their own home in Aruba contributed to the realization of Gold Coast Aruba which when complete will be a community of 260 town homes, villas and condominiums with a stunning clubhouse complemented by two additional community pool areas. The Clubhouse is about to start construction and

appreciation on their investment, particularly those taking advantage of the on site management's rental services program. There is always a great demand for Aruba and facilities such as those at Gold Coast, make it easy for some owners to see a valuable return on their investment.

The design of the residences and public areas is open, airy and spacious, taking full advantage of the island environment, with quality construction and finishing available. Partnering with two

purchasing property; not the least is the future value of the investment. To further enhance this, Gold Coast management have inaugurated a number of in-house services and have recently become affiliated Interval International, the world's largest network of vacation ownership properties which provides an unlimited international pool of investors to tap for ownership and rental prospects. Property exchange for a vacation in another destination is also available through the Interval International affiliation. Gold Coast's own rental services have also proven highly successful in assisting owners in renting their villas; 24-hour security and maintenance services also tip the scales when it is time to make a decision. Aside from all this, housekeeping, child care, catering services, car rental through its partnership with AVIS car rental are also available as well as pre-shopping services so cupboards and refrigerators are stocked upon arrival, which can also be arranged through their property management department. Personnel are also available to assist in arranging restaurant reservations and island activities.

Visit their website: www.goldcoastaruba.com for more details and availability or call 586-2200 to arrange a personal tour.



will offer to the community homeowners and visitors 2 tennis courts, full service spa and fitness center as well as a stunning pool area and is expected to be complete by early 2013. It will also house a restaurant and mini-market.

Owners who purchased upon the groundbreaking only a few short years ago, are already enjoying a nearly 50%

of Aruba's top providers of kitchens and bathrooms enables developers to offer custom options allowing buyers to individualize their homes. An elegant and chic furniture package is available or island designers will assist owners in finishing the décor to their specific tastes.

There are many aspects to

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SPORTS

Football: Van Persie stuns City in derby thriller

MANCHESTER, United Kingdom (AFP) - Robin van Persie scored a stoppage-time winner as Manchester United clinched a dramatic 3-2 away victory over Manchester City to extend their lead at the top of the Premier League to six points on Sunday.

United looked to have squandered a chance to claim the Manchester derby bragging rights when Pablo Zabaleta's equaliser with four minutes remaining completed a brave comeback from City, who had been given a lifeline by Yaya Toure's second half goal after trailing to a first half brace from Wayne Rooney.

But Sir Alex Ferguson's side underlined their determination to wrestle the title back from City with a sensational response though van Persie, whose deflected free-kick handed the champions their first Premier League defeat of the season and their first home league loss since Everton won at Eastlands in December 2010.

United only had three attempts on target in the entire match, but they made them all count, starting in the 16th minute.

Ashley Young picked out Rooney and the United striker scuffed a low shot past wrong-footed City goalkeeper Joe Hart into the corner of the net.

City were rocked by that setback and Rooney netted again in the 29th minute, this time meeting Rafael da Silva's cross with a fine, first-time finish that gave Hart no chance.

That made Rooney the youngest player to reach 150 Premier League goals at 27 years and 46 day.

Young had a goal harshly ruled out for a offside in the second half when he fired home after van Persie's shot hit the bar.

Then Ivorian midfielder Toure slotted home from Carlos Tevez's pass in the 60th minute and City thought they had escaped when Argentine defender Zabaleta smashed in a low shot after United failed to clear a corner.

But there was a sting in the tale as United won a free-kick deep into stoppage-time and van Persie curled in a shot that deflected off Samir Nasri and flashed past Hart.

The remarkable finale was marred however when United defender Rio Ferdinand was hit by an object thrown from the crowd as he celebrated the winner.

Football: Falcao hits five as Atletico thrash Deportivo



MADRID (AFP) - Radamel Falcao became the first La Liga player in a decade to score five goals in a match as Atletico Madrid thrashed Deportivo La Coruna 6-0 to keep the pressure on Barcelona at the top of La Liga on Sunday.

The win moved Atletico to within three points of Barcelona ahead of the Catalans' game at Real Betis later on Sunday.

On Saturday Real Madrid kept up the pressure on the top two with a 3-2 win at Valladolid, but remain five points behind Atletico in third.

Falcao hit a double along with a Diego Costa strike to put Atletico out of sight by half-time.

He completed his hat-trick with a second-half penalty before hitting two more to make him the first player to hit five in a La Liga game since Fernando Morientes for Real Madrid against Las Palmas in 2002.

It means the Colombian has 16 goals in the league this season and it was Atletico's eighth straight home win of the campaign.

A hapless looking Deportivo side remain bottom of the table on 11 points, level with Es-

panyol.

Koke and Diego Costa went close in the opening minutes for the home team.

At the other end for Deportivo the veteran Juan Carlos Valeron was pulling the strings in midfield against a team he joined as far back as 1998.

Deportivo keeper Dani Aranzubia saved well from Costa before Falcao hit his second just before half-time, smashing a half-volley past Aranzubia directly from a throw-in.

His second-half hat-trick began with the penalty he had won himself, before heading the ball from a yard out and having to work slightly harder for his last before shooting home from close range.

For Barcelona, Lionel Messi was given the go-ahead to play against Betis despite injuring his knee in the midweek Champions League 0-0 draw against Benfica.

Barcelona superstar Lionel Messi equalled German legend Gerd Mueller's record of 85 goals in a calendar year set in 1972 when he opened the scoring against Real Betis on Sunday.

Golf: Jamieson wins inaugural Mandela Champs



JOHANNESBURG (AFP) - Scott Jamieson of Scotland won his first European Tour title at the inaugural Nelson Mandela Championship at the Royal Durban Golf Club Sunday.

The 29-year-old beat England's Steve Webster and Spaniard Eduardo de la Riva on the second hole of a play-off. They were tied for the lead at seven-under 123 after the tournament was reduced to 36-holes with heavy rain washing out the first two days.

"To get your name on any European trophy is a fantastic achievement," the 29-year-old said, "but it's a little more special when it's for someone like Nelson [Mandela]." he added while holding an unusual trophy sporting colourful miniatures of Mandela seated with an open book and surrounded by small children.

The proceeds of the tournament will go to the Nelson Mandela Children's Fund.

Jamieson, having finished the first round outside the top 40 with one-over-par 66,

fought back on Sunday to card eight-under-par 57 on the way to his maiden European Tour title.

Play was much swifter in the reduced tournament co-sanctioned by the European Tour and South Africa's Sunshine Tour -- the first time in ten years that two days were cut. Waterlogged conditions also delayed play the Thursday and Friday in the 2002 Portugal Open.

Having finished tied in the lead with Webster and De la Riva, he had to wait five hours before the play-off to see if any of the late-starting players caught up.

"I was pretty nervous for the playoff. But that's why we play, we want to get in that situation and that's what I kept telling myself. The other guys would have been nervous too, so it's just a case of who plays the best golf," Jamieson said afterwards.

De la Riva bogeyed the first play-off on the 18th hole, while Webster lost a stroke on the second to hand the on-par Scotsman the title.

He hoped the victory would help him to more successes this season.

Overnight leaders Tim Clark from South Africa and Dane Morten Orum both shot one-under par 64 on the last day to finish third. Their total of six-under-par 124 was tied with those of Germany's Maximilian Kieffer and Englishman Matthew Nixon.

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NBA: Mavs rally to beat Rockets in coach McHale's return

HOUSTON (AFP) - O.J. Mayo scored 16 of his game-high 40 points in the fourth quarter Saturday to help Dallas rally for a 116-109 NBA victory over the Houston Rockets.

The Rockets welcomed head coach Kevin McHale back to the sideline for the first time since he took a leave of absence on November 10.

McHale's 23-year-old daughter Alexandra "Sasha" McHale, who had battled Lupus, died on November 24.

Before the game, McHale met briefly with Mavericks coach Rick Carlisle, once his teammate in Boston and still a friend.

McHale said he felt ready to return.

"It's been, needless to say, a terrible month. But it just felt like the time to come back and go to work and be around the guys," he said.

The Rockets, trying hard to give McHale a victory in his first game back, had 39 points from James Harden and 18 points and 10 rebounds from Chandler Parsons.

But the Rockets could not hang onto a fourth-quarter lead and lost for the third time in five games.

Mayo drained six three-pointers and pulled down eight rebounds, while Chris Kaman added 20 points and seven rebounds for Dallas.

Darren Collison and Vince Carter contributed 12 points each in the victory, which saw

the Mavs improve to 10-10.

The Mavericks were again without Dirk Nowitzki, who is still battling to get his right knee back in playing condition.

The All-Star forward had arthroscopic surgery on his right knee in October.

He had hoped to return in mid-December. That now seems unlikely, although Nowitzki said he was encouraged by how his knee is holding up to more intense training.

In the meantime, the Mavericks have Mayo.

"Unbelievable performance," Carlisle said of Mayo. "What he's showing over the first 20 games is that he can carry a team at times. He was really impressive. He's real hungry to win."

NFL:



-- Cam Newton #1 of the Carolina Panthers runs with the ball. Panthers stun Falcons 30-20 with Cam Newton throwing for 287 yards and two touchdowns and scored on a 72-yard . Newton piled up a career-high 116 yards on the ground as the Panthers racked up 475 total yards to avenge an early-season loss with a dominating performance against the NFC South champion Falcons. Carolina (4-9) came in with little to play for except to gain a measure of revenge on Falcons quarterback Matt Ryan, whom they felt disrespected them after Atlanta's 30-28 come-from-behind win earlier this season at the Georgia Dome.

Bloodied Marquez... continued from page 16



"I am going to rest and come back to fight. I would go for a fifth," he said.

Marquez said he is not thinking about a rematch at the moment.

"I think this fight was one of my best victories absolutely," Marquez said. "Right now in my future I don't know what is coming."

Pacquiao, who was a three-to-one favorite on Friday, dropped to 54-5-2 with 38 knockouts. Pacquiao weighed in at the division's 147-pound limit (66.67kg) while Marquez, who improved to 55-6-1 with 40 knockouts, stepped on the scale at 143 pounds (64.86kg).

The fighters set a blistering pace, making it look unlikely this fight would go the distance as their three previous fights had.

Pacquiao was eager to redeem himself after suffering a controversial defeat in his most recent fight to Tim Bradley. He was also tired of Marquez blaming his failure to win in their three previous fights on biased judging.

Marquez claims he won all three earlier fights -- although two were scored in favor of Pacquiao and one ended in a draw.

This time, four division champion Marquez left no doubt, showing he was willing to go toe-to-toe with Pacquiao even after getting knocked down in the fifth round.

Spectators got their money's worth as the fight more than lived up to its pre-fight hype.

Much of the pre-fight buzz centered around the judging after Marquez claimed he had been cheated out of previous wins.



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Bloodied Marquez knocks out brawling Pacquiao



LAS VEGAS (AFP) - A bloodied Juan Manuel Marquez rallied to knock out eight division champ Manny Pacquiao with one second left in the sixth round Saturday to win in the fourth fight of their epic boxing rivalry.

The 39-year-old Marquez, who suffered a broken nose and possible concussion, dropped Pacquiao face first to the canvas, giving him his first victory over the Filipino superstar.

Marquez knocked Pacquiao down in the third round then ended the fight with a savage overhand right that hit Pacquiao flush, sending him down hard.

"I feel great that I leave no doubt in the way I got this victory over Manny," Marquez said. "I was counter punching him. He was throwing a lot of punches but he was missing and so I would try to counter punch."

Pacquiao, who suffered his second consecutive loss, landed under the ropes and lay there for a couple of minutes before being helped up and back to his corner.

"I got hit with a punch I didn't see," said Pacquiao before being taken to the nearby University Medical Center hospital for repairs. "I thought I was getting him in the last couple of

rounds but I got hit by a strong punch. I did not expect that punch."

Pacquiao did not attend the post-fight news conference. His camp said he was undergoing scans of his head area and other medical tests.

The shocking ending stunned the crowd of 16,348 at the MGM Grand Garden arena as Marquez had held his own in their first three fights but had never even knocked down Pacquiao until Saturday night.

Pacquiao dismissed talk of retirement and said he would like to fight Marquez again.

continues on page 15

NFL: Cowboys' Brown dies in car crash, teammate arrested



Jerry Brown - R.I.P.

DALLAS (AFP) - NFL player Josh Brent was arrested early Saturday on drink driving manslaughter charges in connection with a single-vehicle smash that killed Dallas Cowboys reserve Jerry Brown.

According to police in the Dallas suburb of Irving the 24-year-old Brent -- named in the police report at Joshua Price-Brent -- was driving on Highway 114 at around 2:20 a.m. at a high speed when the vehicle struck a curb causing it to flip before coming to a stop in the middle of the service road.

When police arrived at the scene the car was burning and Brent appeared to be trying to drag Brown from the vehicle.

Brown, 25, was unresponsive at the scene and was taken to hospital, where he was pronounced dead.

nounced dead.

Brent was arrested for drink driving after being given a sobriety test at the scene of the smash. He was booked into the Irving City Jail on a count of drink driving manslaughter, police said.

Brent is the nose tackle for Dallas while Brown was a member of the Cowboy's practice squad.

The two played together at the University of Illinois from 2007-09, where during his college career Brent was suspended in 2009 after a misdemeanor drink driving arrest.

Brent now faces a second-degree felony charge that could carry a jail sentence of from two to 20 years. His bond was expected to be set this week.

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